

# *the* APACHE

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE™



*The Student Becomes the Teacher*



# the APACHE

VOL. XXIX, NO. 2  
SPRING/SUMMER 2015

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*What a great year we have enjoyed at your favorite junior college! Two brand-new, state-of-the-art facilities have opened and are already serving students, and one more will soon open its doors.*

*If you haven't had the opportunity to see the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center, you'll want to make a trip to campus to get a tour. It is unlike anything we have ever seen at TJC, and the students who are studying in our nursing and health sciences programs are beaming with pride.*

*The Energy Center on the West Campus is introducing the latest technology to students in our industrial trades programs, and the new Crossroads residence hall is filling a need by making available 248 additional beds for students who want to live on campus. This year, we will have more than 1,400 Apaches living on campus!*

*The Texas Legislature reduced funding at most of the state's community colleges this session; but even though TJC's funding was reduced, the session did produce one bright spot of legislation specific to TJC – the approval of a new bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. Special thanks go to Sen. Kevin Eltife and Rep. Travis Clardy for introducing bills to make this possible, and thanks to our area legislators for their strong support.*

*Now the students who wish to continue their education to prepare them for greater career opportunities will not have to travel to Dallas or Houston to make it happen. They'll be able to stay close to home, pay a fraction of the tuition and fees that a university would charge, and TJC will more fully utilize its magnificent new facilities.*

*We're also exploring ways to better utilize the 34 operatories inside the dental hygiene clinic with community partners who want to serve those who need preventative and restorative dental care but cannot afford it. You'll be hearing and seeing more about those efforts in the coming months.*

*So, the new academic year begins with a buzz and with our faculty and staff poised for our best year ever. As you read through this issue, make certain you don't miss the news about Homecoming 2015 so that you may join us and tour our fine new facilities. And, if you lived on campus during your time at TJC, you'll want to walk through the residence halls and take a stroll down memory lane.*

*Thanks for all of your support. We couldn't be the nation's best junior college if it weren't for the personal and financial investments of our great alumni and friends!*

Dr. L. Michael Metke  
President, Tyler Junior College





**WEAR RED FOR VAN:** On May 13, Tyler Junior College faculty and staff joined students and staff members from schools across East Texas by wearing red as a sign of support for tornado victims in Van. According to news reports, the EF-3 tornado which occurred on May 10 caused \$40 million in damage to the small, Texas town and surrounding area. Relief efforts are ongoing, and donations can be made through the American Red Cross.

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Current TJC student Jacob Savage (left) nominated his former Van High School speech instructor (and TJC speech alumnus) JP Fugler for the Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award, sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.  
For more, see page 6.  
Photo by Allen Arrick.

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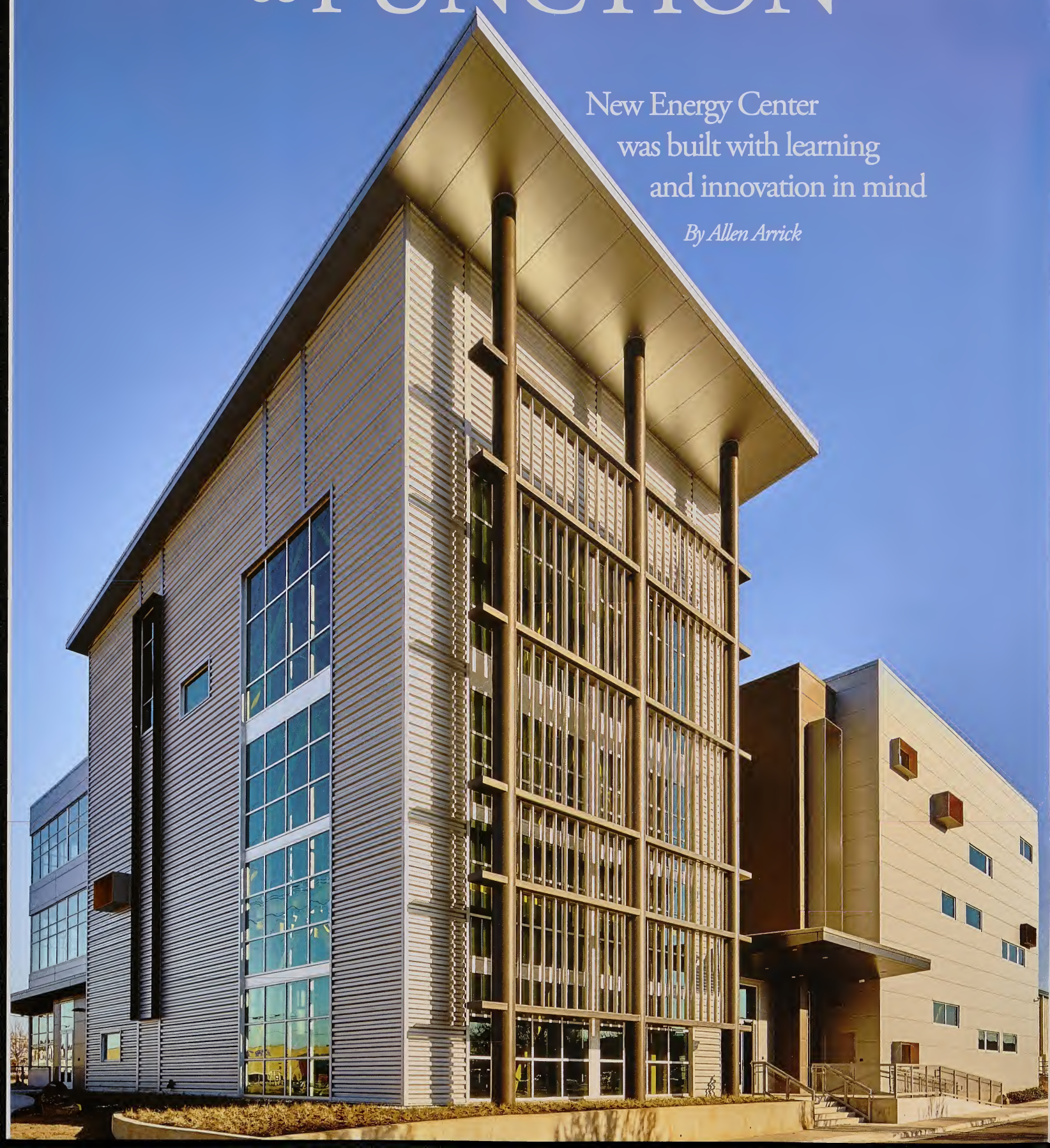
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# FORM & FUNCTION

New Energy Center  
was built with learning  
and innovation in mind

*By Allen Arrick*





In the lobby of the new TJC Energy Center is an abstract sculpture made with 48 two-by-four wood planks mounted to the wall in a seemingly bizarre, unwieldy pattern. The discussion piece is striking and looks out of place when you first see it.

"That's everybody's first question: What is it?" Brandy Ziegler, project architect for Fitzpatrick Architects, said.

When the architects were designing the interior of the building, they wanted to do something representing raw energy – an abstract piece that represented the nature of energy – full of kinetic potential.

"It's more of an abstract element, but it was kind of innovative in itself," Ziegler said. "We talked about this center being an innovation center."

Innovative, striking, abstract and kinetic were all adjectives used to pitch a brand-new training center expansion on the West Campus to bring exciting high-tech careers to Tyler.

Construction began in February 2014 with the goal of building a cutting-edge workforce development center to cross-train students on everything from HVAC and advanced energy systems to electrical systems and welding technology.

The Energy Center presents a new "front door" to the TJC West Campus.

"It's a statement about what we're doing here. We're investing serious thought and money to have something great," Ziegler said.

Packing more than 50,000 square feet into a small patch of land adjacent to the current skills training center was no small feat, which is why the building had to be an impressive three stories in height. Deciding on a look for the building was a whole other task.

The buildings on the West Campus have been many things over the years, including industrial and light manufacturing. The \$9.6 million facility had to impress but work within the confines of the West Campus' small footprint.

"We wanted to work with our context, so we decided to stick with an industrial feel; but we didn't want to necessarily mimic, or even nod to, the West Campus," Ziegler said. "We would be distinctly different."

The architects at Fitzpatrick looked at other projects around the country that embodied the industrial feel they were going for: a cross between industrial and

mid-century modern; simple, elegant and warm, without frills. The Energy Center does that.

The design team settled on using insulated metal panels, or IMPs, a newer, pre-fabricated construction material. The panels consist of foam insulation sandwiched between two pieces of metal, then painted. The tolerances are very tight, and the 4'x8' panels lock together forming a weather-tight barrier. The main structure of the building is put together like an erector set, with bright yellow I-beams.

But state-of-the-art construction often comes with challenges and creative problem solving.

"You can't hide anything like you would with a stud wall," Ziegler said, referring to electrical conduit, heating, cooling, and plumbing. "The challenge is to keep it neat and not an eyesore."

energy systems.

And with the name "Energy Center," being energy inefficient was out of the question.

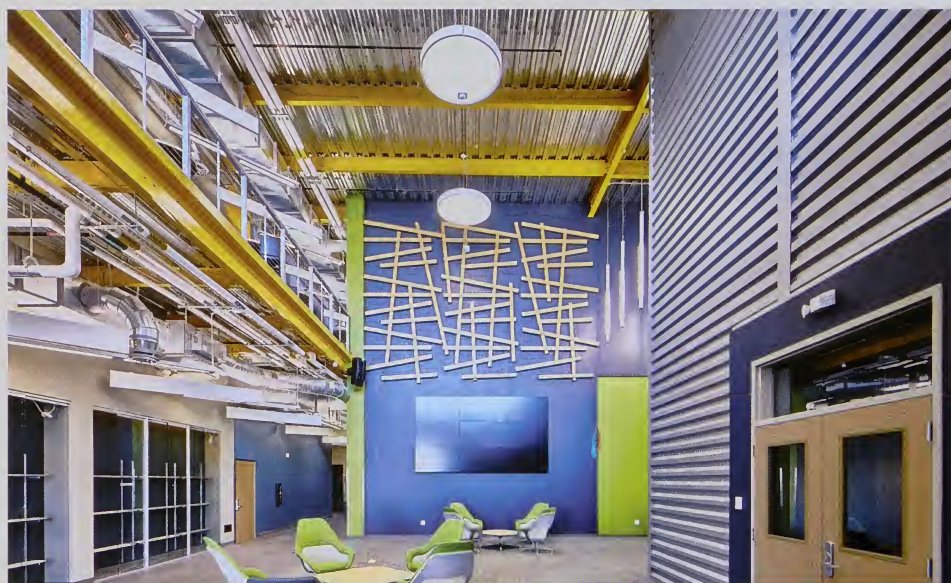
"If we're going to say that we're about energy over here, it had to be energy efficient," Ziegler said. "It was a priority from the beginning."

Louvers on the west side of the building limit the amount of sunlight-induced heat coming through the three stories of windows.

On the north side, interior lights will turn off if they detect enough ambient light coming through the windows. Walk into a room, even a common area, and lights will turn on to greet you.

"It's called 'light harvesting,' so when you don't need light, it's not on," Ziegler said.

The roof of the building is bathed in light-reflecting material, situated below



*An abstract sculpture of two-by-four wood planks serves as the focal point of the Energy Center lobby. Photos courtesy of BlackInk Photography.*

With that challenge represented an opportunity.

"The whole building is a learning lab," Dr. W. Clayton Allen, associate vice president for instruction, told the Tyler Paper in December of 2014.

"He kept saying 'show off the HVAC systems, show off the pipes,'" Ziegler said.

Indeed, all of the plumbing, electrical and heating and cooling are exposed for all to see. Each pipe is labeled, and each wire is color-coded and arranged neatly in order.

The entire building is a training tool to teach students the ins and outs of modern

three perches for future solar panel installation.

The design team started with big ideas and narrowed down the design to incorporate the most efficient and realistic design choices.

"We originally had this crazy idea for a huge windmill that was as tall as the building and stuck out of the roof. That didn't make it," Ziegler lamented. "Some of our ideas were really far out there."

The architecture for the windmill, albeit on a smaller scale, is still designed into the building.

*Continued on page 23*





AN INSPIRING TRIO: TJC speech student Jacob Savage (left) was so influenced by his former Van High School speech teacher JP Fugler (right), he nominated Fugler for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award. Fugler is one of 13 educators nationwide -- and the only winner from Texas -- selected from an extensive pool of nominees. Savage and Fugler are pictured with TJC speech professor M'Liss Hindman, who continues to inspire them both.

# The STUDENT becomes the TEACHER

**TJC speech alumnus inspires a student of his own and wins Sondheim award**

*By Elise Mullinix*

Tyler Junior College has two connections to this year's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards: A winning teacher and the student who nominated him.

JP Fugler, a former TJC student and current speech teacher at Van High

School, is one of 13 educators nationwide -- and the only winner from Texas -- selected this year from an extensive pool of nominees.

Fugler was nominated for the Sondheim award by his former VHS student Jacob Savage, now a freshman speech/communications major at TJC.

In spring of 2008, Fugler himself was a standout speech student at TJC, where he earned awards for parliamentary debate and program oral interpretation. After TJC, he finished his education at The University of Texas at Tyler.

"I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a speech teacher, and Tyler Junior



College groomed me for that,” Fugler said. “(TJC speech professor) M’Liss Hindman is one of the people I credit most for shaping me as an educator.”

Even after Fugler transferred to UT Tyler, Hindman created an internship so he could assist her with coaching the TJC speech team.

“She taught me how to be a teacher,” he said.

Hindman said, “JP always had the goal to teach on the high school level, even though I tried to sway him to teach on the college level. But he felt his calling was to the high school age and I know he was correct. His students are truly inspired by him.”

Hindman’s assessment is obviously on target, because in his essay nominating Fugler for the Sondheim award, Jacob Savage wrote:

“During my junior year, we attended the prestigious St. Mark’s Heart of Texas forensics tournament. Throughout the tournament, Mr. Fugler encouraged me to watch rounds of Original Oratory, a ten-minute memorized speaking event.

“The writing commitment deterred me, but he persisted and offered his help. As we drove home late that night,

I told him I wanted his help in writing an oratory for the next year. He simply said, ‘I’ve been waiting for you to say that.’ I had no idea what the subject would be or how to even start, but his response was all I needed to give me confidence in my commitment.”

The Sondheim awards were created in 2010, in honor of composer Stephen Sondheim’s 80th birthday, and were initiated and funded through the support of Myrna and Freddie Gershon. Award recipients each receive \$10,000 and are showcased, along with the people they inspired, on a website dedicated to inspirational teachers.

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**“I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a speech teacher, and Tyler Junior College groomed me for that.”**

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**– JP Fugler**

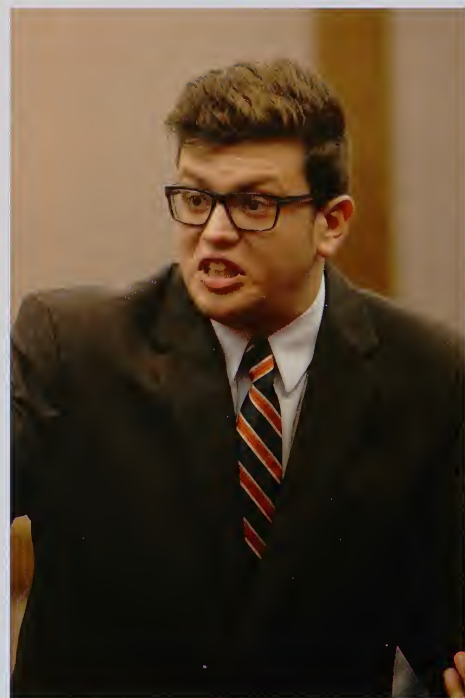
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The 2015 Inspirational Teachers are: Dr. John C. Carr (posthumous) of Washington, D.C.; Dr. Melissa Collins of Memphis, Tennessee; Jack Ellis of St. Clair Shores, Michigan; JP Fugler of Van, Texas; Vivian Fusillo of Winona, Minnesota; Arthur Hall of Lumberton, North Carolina; Joshua Hosler of Lake Orion, Michigan; Arlene Kies of Durham, New Hampshire; Dr. Gagik Melikyan of Northridge, California; Teresa Parrott of Salisbury, Maryland; Tracey Rains of Sevierville, Tennessee; Jim Robert of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Evelyn Seubert of Reseda, California.

“Teachers define us,” Sondheim said on the Kennedy Center website. “In our early years, when we are still being formed, they often see in us more than we see in ourselves, more even than our families see and, as a result, help us to evolve into what we ultimately become. Good teachers are touchstones to paths of achieving more than we might have otherwise accomplished, in directions we might not have gone.”

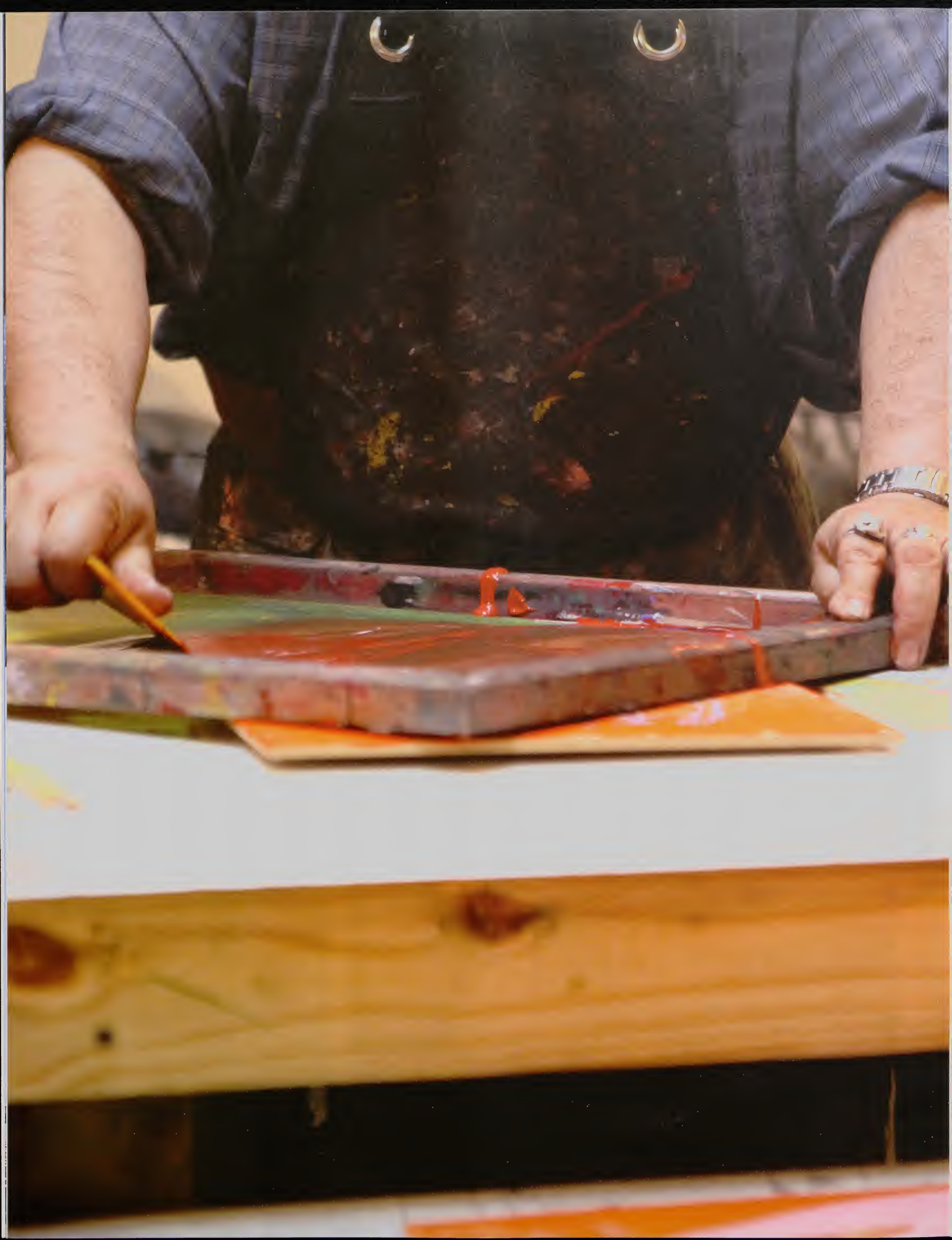
To learn more about the Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards, please visit [www.kennedy-center.org/SondheimTeacherAwards](http://www.kennedy-center.org/SondheimTeacherAwards).

*Elise Mullinix is TJC editorial manager.*



ABOVE LEFT: Jacob Savage (second from left) and his fellow “Polar Bears,” aka the TJC forensics team, warm up for their annual showcase, held during this year’s first TJC Festival of the Arts. For more on the arts festival, see the article on Pg. 9. TJC’s forensics team consistently wins multiple awards at the state and national levels, often besting their counterparts at four-year institutions. ABOVE RIGHT: Savage gives his all in his presentation.







# Mixing It Up

**Visual, performance programs combine for first-ever TJC Festival of the Arts**

*By Elise Mullinix*

Anyone who has attended a concert, show or exhibit on campus knows Tyler Junior College consistently produces some of the best performing and visual arts East Texas has to offer; but never had there been one, big, overarching event celebrating that fact.

All that changed in April with TJC's inaugural Festival of the Arts.

The 10-day presentation was a collaboration of TJC's art, music, theater, speech, dance, honors, and visual communications departments, as well as The Bell Tower Arts Journal, International Day, Chapel Hill Collegiate (early-college high school) and the Tyler Museum of Art.

Festival events were all completely free and open to the public and offered performances, exhibits, student film screenings, guest speakers, and more at various times and locations across the TJC campus and at the Tyler Museum of Art.

"The Festival of the Arts was designed to call new attention to the wonderful fine and performing arts programs at TJC, to get potential students and parents to say, 'Why would you go anywhere else?'" said Dr. Linda Gary, TJC professor of English and department chair for humanities, literature and philosophy. Gary was a key organizer of the festival.

She said, "Most of these events – the plays, concerts, exhibits – are annual



presentations that have been offered for years. This is the first year we've put them all together and showcased them with one, campus-wide event. We also created some events, such as the 'TJC at the TMA' activities with the Tyler Museum of Art.

"This is something we had discussed for a long time. There are so many cultural opportunities right here at home, and we really wanted to celebrate what we were doing at TJC and what we've been doing for years and years."

The first TJC Festival of the Arts was deemed a huge success and brought hundreds of new visitors to TJC.

Plans are already in the works for 2016.

*Elise Mullinix is TJC editorial manager.*



# GO APACHES

## Back-to-back champs! Apaches capture 2nd consecutive World Series title



The TJC baseball team celebrates with the championship trophy after taking TJC athletics' 52nd national title. The Apaches defeated Joliet Junior College with a score of 10-9 at the NJCAA Division III World Series, held in May in Kinston, N.C. For photos of the Apaches' press conference celebrating their return to Tyler, see Pg. 11.

### Apaches take 2nd consecutive NJCAA Division III World Series title

The Apaches baseball team (41-8) defeated Joliet Junior College, 10-9, May 27 in Kinston, N.C., to become the 2015 NJCAA Division III National Champions, defending their 2014 title won in Tyler. The back-to-back national title run brought to 52 the number of athletic championships in the history of TJC Athletics.

"This group represented our school and city extremely well," said Head Coach Doug Wren. "We had great fan support all season. The fan support was tremendous in North Carolina as well as from afar with tweets, emails, calls and texts."

Wren was named Coach of the Year, while pitcher Cody Brown, who won Game 1 and saved Game 4, was named Tournament MVP.

Following the season, freshman Jace Vines of Tyler was named the 2015 NJCAA DIII Baseball Pitcher of the Year. With a 10-1 record, the right hander finished tied with teammate Brown as the only NJCAA Div. III pitchers at the 10-win mark.

Vines and freshman teammate Zane Ancell Tyler were named to the First and Third Teams All-NJCAA season lists.

Derek Clemons earned the 2015 ABCA/Rawlings Gold Glove Award on the NJCAA Division III Team with 208 putouts, 16 assists, 0 errors, 2 double plays, and a 1.000 fielding percentage during the 2015 season.

### TJC finishes 3rd in National Sweepstakes Cup

The National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) announced the winners of the 2014-15 NATYCAA Cup Standings. Iowa Central CC captured the scholarship college division with 169.5 points, Herkimer CCC won the non-scholarship division with 152.0 points and Mt. San Antonio took home the State Association title with 187.5 points. Tyler Junior College finished third in the scholarship division, which is the 2nd highest finish in school history and the second time TJC was among top finishers.

Schools are rated on points in their top five men's and top five women's programs. A national championship is worth 20 points, a runner-up is worth 19, and so on. TJC accumulated 141.5 points (NATYCAA).

### Inaugural softball season a success

The Apache Ladies softball team completed a successful inaugural season May 4 with a Region 14 Tournament loss to tourney host Angelina College. Despite not advancing, the ladies finished the year with an impressive 38-19 overall record.

### Men's, women's tennis players named to All-American teams

Six TJC tennis players were named to Tennis ITA All Americans. For the men, Logan Powell, Vaughn Hunter, and Zach Northey, all of Tyler, made the list. For the women, Elizabeth Bagerbaseh, Joanna Savva and Paige Murdock, all of Tyler, were recognized.

### ASA tennis teams defeat Apaches, Apache Ladies in finals

ASA (N.Y.) bested TJC's men's tennis team in the NJCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championship in Plano in May, tallying 50 points over TJC's 43. It was ASA's second-consecutive national championship claim against TJC.

Winning in all nine flights of competition, ASA (N.Y.) cruised to victory in the NJCAA Division I Women's Tennis Championship in Tuscon, AZ, in May, besting the Apache Ladies of TJC. The Apache Ladies finished the regular season with a 13-6 mark.



# GO APACHES





# GO APACHES

## TJC's first tennis coach Fred Kniffen inducted into Intercollegiate Tennis Hall of Fame

By Fred M. Peters

Fred Kniffen, a tennis icon in Tyler and throughout the nation, was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Men's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame during a banquet and ceremony at Baylor University in Waco in May.

Kniffen, a noted player at the high school and collegiate levels, led both Tyler Junior College and The University of Texas at Tyler to national championships as head coach.

The ceremony was held as the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships were going on at Baylor.

Kniffen was a standout player at Hardin-Simmons University.

Kniffen led the Patriots to two NAIA National Championships in 1989 and 1994 while coaching at UT Tyler from 1985 to 1994. His teams also finished third in the country in 1987 and were national runners-up in 1988.

Besides the team championships, Kniffen coached Ken Olivier to the NAIA singles championship in 1989 and the duo of Olivier and Chris Harris to the doubles title that same year.

Kniffen first arrived in Tyler in 1973 as the first tennis coach for TJC.

During his tenure as coach of the Apaches, Kniffen won four NJCAA national championships, was named the National Junior College Men's Coach of the Year in 1980 and 1983, National Women's Coach of the Year in 1983 and 1984 and helped 31 players earn All-America honors.

TJC inducted Kniffen into TJC's Circle of Honor in 2001.

Kniffen also was a member of the inaugural UT Tyler Athletics Hall of Fame class in 2012.



Fred Kniffen (left) is congratulated by Robert Cox, who played under Kniffen at TJC from 1974 to '76. Upon Kniffen's departure from TJC in 1984, Cox served as head men's tennis coach from 1984 to '87.



Kniffen's acceptance speech was read by his daughter, Janet Kniffen Scholl.



Pictured with ITA Executive Director David A. Benjamin (far left) are the Class of 2015 inductees Mark Merkley, University of Florida; Kniffen, TJC and UT Tyler; Tim Russell, Northwestern University; Jeff Morrison, University of Florida; and Jay Berger, Clemson University.



Following the ceremony, Kniffen is surrounded by family, friends and a strong contingent of TJC supporters.



# GO APACHES

## Drain named Under Armour Athletics Director of the Year

The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics announced the 28 winners of the Under Armour AD of the Year Award. The award spans seven divisions: NCAA FBS, FCS, Division I-AAA, II, III, NAIA/Other Four-Year Institutions and Junior College/Community Colleges.

Tyler Junior College's Dr. Tim Drain has been announced as one of the winners and received his award during the James J. Corbett Awards Luncheon on June 17, at NACDA's 50th Annual Convention in Orlando, Fla.

Drain is now in his 16th year in athletics administration at TJC, and his 13th as the college's athletics director. Tyler Junior College has won a total of 52 NJCAA National Championships since 1946, which ranks fourth in the history of NJCAA (as of December 2014). Twenty-five of those have come during Drain's tenure, with 20 of them coming with Drain as athletics director. The TJC athletics program finished third in the 2013-14 NATYCAA Cup Standings, was fourth the year before, and finished as national runner-up in 2011-12. Drain has served as the NJCAA Region XIV Women's Director since 2001.

"I am extremely humbled to be receiving this honor. While I am not sure it is deserved, I do know that it cannot be appreciated more," said Dr. Drain. "I am also fully aware

that any individual award is a reflection of a bigger picture. I am deeply privileged and honored to work at an institution like Tyler Junior College. I work with a tremendous group of administrators, faculty and staff. I am so grateful for the head coaches and assistant coaches who understand the mission of TJC and do their best to recruit student-athletes who reflect those values.

"People like Eddy McGuire and his training staff, Denny Yarbrough and Kenny Masenda do so much work for our student-athletes and our coaches, and I deeply appreciate their commitment to TJC. I also want to thank Chuck Smith and Angie Clemons for their tireless work on behalf of the college and our athletic department. I also want to recognize and thank the



Dr. Tim Drain

student-athletes of TJC for choosing Tyler as a place to begin their college years."

Drain serves as chair for both the Service and Recognition and Women's Tennis committees for the NJCAA. He is also a voting member in the football, women's basketball, softball and women's soccer NJCAA National Polls and has been the tournament director for 21 NJCAA National Championships, including men's and women's soccer (11), baseball (eight), and women's tennis (two). Drain currently serves as the president of NATYCAA and was awarded the 2010 George E. Killian Award of Excellence from the NJCAA and was honored as an Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year in 2012. He was inducted into the NJCAA Men's Soccer Hall of Fame in 2013 for his contributions to the sport.

Drain is married to Holly, his wife of 21 years. They have two children, Peyton (16) and Nathan (14).

"Finally, this award cannot be accepted without thanking my wife Holly and two boys Peyton and Nathan. I could not do this job without their support," Drain said. "Anytime you single out people to thank, you risk forgetting a few. Just simply know that I share this honor with all Apaches!"

## Brandi Hood named head volleyball coach

After spending the past two years as the assistant coach at TJC, Brandi Hood becomes the third volleyball coach in TJC history, succeeding Coach Ronda Shirley.



Brandi Hood

"I am thrilled that Brandi Hood will become our next volleyball coach," said Athletic Director Dr. Tim Drain. "I was very impressed with her as an assistant coach under Ronda Shirley, and have been thrilled with our volleyball team's success on and off the court the past few years. I thank the committee for their

time in the selection process, and look forward to many more successful years in Apache volleyball under Coach Hood."

Hood began her collegiate volleyball career playing for Coach Shirley at Hutchinson Community College (Kan.) in 2005-2006 and was named a First-Team NJCAA All-American her sophomore year. She graduated with her Associates of Arts degree and then advanced to play at Texas Tech University where she earned her bachelor's degree in 2008.

After graduation, she returned to Hutchinson Community College as an assistant coach from 2009 to 2013. During her tenure there, she helped coach the team to a 9th place (2009) and 11th place (2012) finish at the NJCAA National Tournament.

In 2013, she came to Tyler as assistant coach and helped Tyler to a 2nd place (2013) and 8th place (2014) finish at the NJCAA National Tournament.

"If this doesn't go to show what hard work and putting in your time truly means, I don't know what does. I've worked my whole life for this moment," Hood said. "To be starting my head coaching career at Tyler Junior College, I am truly grateful. An opportunity like this doesn't come around every day. I am excited to get the 2015-2016 team together and am looking forward to seeing all the things that they are going to accomplish."

Hood is a native of Hutchinson, Kansas, and has one daughter, Tynlee.



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Bob Rice, Sheryl Palmer, Robyn Rogers & Robert Gee



Jared Carrasco, Trina Travis & Mindy Goode



Harold & Rosemary Beard



Tisa & Billy Hibbs



Happi & Todd Byrne with Christine Melius



Bonnie Tincher & Barbara Bass



Dr. Kim Russell



Brenda Korich, Kathy Wilkins, Mitch Andrews, Glenda Lancaster & Sherry Seaton with Elizabeth & Ben Sutton



Scott & Teresa Butcher, Aaron Owens & LaVerne Gollob



Angela Rock, "Baby Hal," Mary Brady & Lindy Wilson



Wanda Ealey & Loretta Johnson



GRAND OPENING GALA • ROBERT M. ROGERS NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER • APRIL 9



*Ann Primer, Eleanor Cameron with Brenda & Hal Cameron*



*David McCullough, Clint Roxburgh & Jim Perkins*



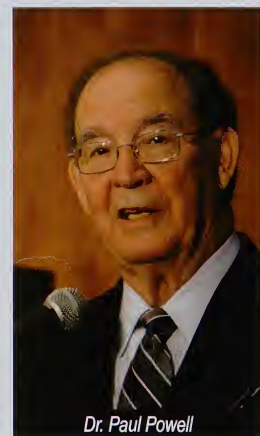
*Susan Ellis & Dr. Scott Ellis*



*Dr. Merwyn Pickle & Brandon Malone*



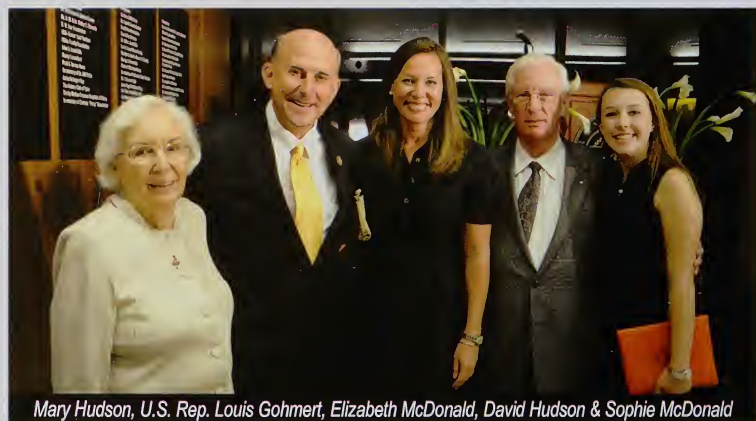
*Kay & Mike Breedlove*



*Dr. Paul Powell*



*Dr. David Lakey with Susan & Lee Gibson*



*Mary Hudson, U.S. Rep. Louis Gohmert, Elizabeth McDonald, David Hudson & Sophie McDonald*



*Lonny & Kelley Uzzell*



*Nancy Gross & Dr. Gary Gross*



**COMMUNITY RIBBON-CUTTING • ROGERS NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER • APRIL 10**



*TJC leadership with representatives of Rogers Foundation & Tyler Chamber of Commerce*



*Judge Joel Baker*



*Billy & Lynnette Fewell*



*Sheryl Palmer, Robyn Rogers & Dr. Paul Powell*



*Dr. Mike Metke*



*John Hills, Henry Bell, Rohn Boone & Linda Sellers*



*Dr. Joe Prud'homme*



*Bob Rice, Dr. Paul Powell & Sam Roosth*



*Gigi Delk, Judy Turman & Patrick Willis*



# Thank You!

*With overwhelming community support and generous financial contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations, Tyler Junior College opened the Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center. The facility serves as a comprehensive educational resource for the college's expanding healthcare programs and Tyler's burgeoning medical industry.*

*Tyler Junior College is truly grateful to the Robert M. Rogers Foundation and the many contributors for their generous support.*

*Thank you for believing in the college and supporting our vision to make Tyler a healthcare training destination.*



In memory of Dr. Eugene Allen & Dr. Don Allen

Austin Bank

Jeff Buie

Mike & Jane Coker

Dr. Bill Crowe & Debbie Crowe

Mr. D. M. & Dr. Welby C. Edwards

R. W. Fair Foundation

HGR+Turner Joint Venture

Hibbs Family Foundation

John & Janet Hills

Nancy Lunceford

Paul & Teresa Owen

In memory of Dr. Bill Pirtle

Anita Ardinger Ray Foundation

The Rotary Club of Tyler

Norman & Barbara Shtofman

Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals & Clinics

In memory of Clorinda "Petey"

Wisembaker



A-dec

Anonymous

Barbara & Billy Bass

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Brad & Ann Brookshire

Sam & Kay Dawson

Dr. & Mrs. Scott Ellis

Lee & Susan Gibson Family

Marilyn & John D. Glass Jr. & Family

George & Verna Hall

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In memory of Katherine Deer Hudson

H. T. & Laura Hyde

Janis King RN & David King

Dr. Paul Latta & Kay Latta

Dr. Mike Metke & Donna Metke

Clint & Carole Roxburgh

Smith County Medical Society

Smith County Medical Society Alliance

Peggy & Preston Smith

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Dr. Chip Swinney & Kimberly Swinney

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Azalea Orthopedics and

Texas Spine & Joint Hospital

Citizens 1st Bank and

James I. Perkins Family Foundation



In memory of Michael D. Gollob

A. W. Riter Jr. Family Foundation

Southside Bank

*Permanent donor recognition displayed in lobby of Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center beginning fall of 2015.*





# FOUNDATION NEWS



TJC President Dr. Mike Metke welcomes the crowd of more than 300 special guests and contributors during the gala grand opening of the Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center held on April 9.

## A Truly Community Project

*Contributors give generously to new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center*

*By Becca Anderson*

Tyler Junior College's new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center isn't just an enormous, new, state-of-the-art healthcare training facility. It's a tribute to what happens when a community truly believes in and throws its considerable support behind the college's mission.

The center is the most ambitious capital project in TJC's 88-year history, and private funding resulted in the most generous giving for the college to date.

The 150,000-square-foot facility includes comprehensive skills laboratories, workplace simulation, the latest equipment, advanced technology and on-site clinicals. It provides the resources to expand TJC's current healthcare programs and add new in demand offerings in order to meet the growing needs of Tyler's medical industry.

Private funding for the facility came from local foundations, individuals and corporations. The most significant contribution was given by the Robert M. Rogers Foundation, for which the facility is named. Rogers was founder, chair and chief executive of TCA Cable TV, and he helped to revolutionize the national cable television industry. His family foundation has benefited many worthy projects

throughout the community.

Local foundations followed the lead of the Rogers Foundation and provided substantial funding for the new facility.

Individual donors were also very supportive of the project. Ben and Elizabeth Sutton provided a generous contribution and were honored with the Ben and Elizabeth Sutton Floor within the facility. The floor features advanced skills labs for nursing, a medical technology laboratory classroom, radiologic technology X-ray lab, sonography lab, surgical technology operating room, student lounge and learning resource center and technology enhanced classrooms

The Suttons are no strangers to TJC, and Ben received the distinguished alumnus award from the TJC Alumni Association in 2014.

Elizabeth said, "Tyler Junior College was the ideal place for Ben to resume his education after serving in WWII. It was local and provided encouraging faculty and opportunities for community involvement. Without TJC, he would not have continued his studies."

The Suttons have contributed to various

initiatives at the college including the Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center.

"The facility is rich in educational opportunities for aspiring healthcare professionals," she said. "We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to invest in this new resource. TJC is a legacy institution and so vital to Tyler and East Texas."

Corporate support was also key to the success of the project including local companies such as Tyler's Southside Bank. The bank's donation was recognized with the Southside Bank classroom, the largest instructional space in the Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center.

"TJC has been an influential institution in this area, and its economic impact is constantly increasing," said Sam Dawson, president and chief executive officer of Southside Bank, as well as a TJC alumnus. "With the growing East Texas healthcare industry, the opportunities offered through the new facility will benefit students as well as residents in and around this region. The need for healthcare in East Texas continues to grow and we believe this facility prepares students for many years to come."

Tyler Junior College also received generous gifts from all three of the college's governing bodies, including the TJC board of trustees, the TJC Foundation board and the TJC Alumni Association board.

Nancy Duckett Lunceford, a TJC alumna, former Apache Belle and current member of the foundation board, was one of the first board members to pledge her support and one of the first donors to the project.

"Dr. Metke gave us a presentation and I thought, 'This is wonderful!'" she said. "I was excited for TJC and the city of Tyler and for all the students who can go there and make a contribution to the city. What a glorious opportunity for students just out of high school. I just wanted to be part of it. Think of the thousands of students who will use the facility in years to come."

Lunceford gave to name a classroom in memory of her late husband, David. "We met at TJC. He was a football player and I



# FOUNDATION NEWS

was an Apache Belle. He was from Van and was the first in his family to go to college. I hope it will inspire others to do the same. I want to give an opportunity for any student to have a successful life and maybe come back and give to TJC as we have," she said.

David Lunceford went on to play professional football, and then had a career with Exxon, which provided a generous matching gift to the RNHSC. "Exxon is wonderful," Nancy Lunceford said. "Their

matching funds program has provided support for colleges and universities all over."

Dr. Paul Powell, who serves on the board of the Rogers Foundation, was instrumental in establishing the lead gift for the nursing and health sciences center.

"TJC is one of the outstanding institutions of Tyler and has been for many years," Powell said. "Any foundation that is interested in Tyler should support projects like this. I would like to see private

foundations in the area support one big project every year. We could do something major on an annual basis. We believe in trying to cooperate to make things better, and helping TJC is a great way to do that."

To be part of the future of the Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center, contact Mitch Andrews at 903-510-2034, or [mand@tjc.edu](mailto:mand@tjc.edu).

*Becca Anderson is a contributing writer to the Apache Magazine.*

## Community medical groups support Rogers center fundraising efforts

*By Becca Anderson*

One of the goals of the Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center project is to meet community healthcare needs by producing highly qualified and properly trained graduates to support Tyler's growing medical industry.

Community medical groups were quick to put their support behind the fundraising efforts, especially since the new facility will allow TJC's nursing program to grow by 50 percent.

Agnes Ward is a member of the Smith County Medical Society Alliance and served on the TJC Nursing Development Task Force. The task force was charged with helping to raise funds in support the Roger Nursing & Health Sciences Center and the college's nursing program. With a legacy of supporting Tyler's medical community, it was a natural fit for the organization.

Ward approached Andi Ledlie, current SCMSA president and an alumna of TJC's nursing program, for the group to consider a gift. SCMSA gave \$10,000 to name two control rooms within the hospital simulation suite. The suite contains five laboratories that utilize the latest technology, including robotic mannequins, to simulate a hospital environment for nursing students.

"As an alumna of the TJC nursing program, I can appreciate what this center means, both to healthcare students and to our community," Ledlie said. "The simulation experience and the ability to have on-site clinical training will provide every nursing student the invaluable education and skills needed for their healthcare career.

"TJC's nursing and health sciences students will not only receive a great education in Tyler, they will be able to have successful careers in Tyler."

As a result of SCMSA's generosity, individual members also gave to the project including Ledlie and her husband, Jon, a retired neurosurgeon.

"Jon and I feel it is a privilege to be able to give back and



*The Smith County Medical Society Alliance recently donated \$10,000 to the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center at Tyler Junior College. From left, Sylvia Orten, Ann Primer and Agnes Ward, SCMSA members; Mitch Andrews, TJC executive director of advancement and alumni engagement; Debby Davis, SCMSA president-elect; TJC President Dr. Mike Metke; Andi Ledlie, SCMSA president; and Chere Prados, SCMSA member.*

participate in such an outstanding endeavor."

Ledlie also brought information about the center to the Smith County Medical Society, which provides support and services to area physicians. The group contributed \$10,000 to name a debrief room in the hospital simulation suite.

Dr. Kyle Smith, SCMS president, said, "The Smith County Medical Society is pleased to support the future of the nursing and allied health programs that have been vitally important to the overall success of our local health care community for so many years. It's a wonderful opportunity to invest locally in something that has tremendous benefit for the entire community, and we were happy to have the chance to participate."

For information about being part of the growth of the Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center, contact Mitch Andrews at 903-510-2034 or [mand@tjc.edu](mailto:mand@tjc.edu).



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Smiles All Around

Dentists raise more than \$300,000 in support of new dental clinic

By Becca Anderson

When the TJC dental hygiene program began in 1969, it was state of the art. While teeth haven't changed in the last 46 years, the technology and techniques used in the modern dental office have seen radical changes.

A few years ago, TJC leadership was advised during a review that the program was in danger of losing its standing with the Commission on Dental Accreditation, so a new dental clinic was developed within the plans for the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center.

At 10,000 square feet, the dental facility triples the size of the previous clinic and offers the resources to continue to provide dynamic and relevant training to dental personnel. A Dental Hygiene Development Task Force was formed to help seek private funding in support of the new clinic.

Co-chairs Scott Ellis and Paul Latta, both TJC alumni and community dentists, knew they had a tall order to fill, so they recruited 10 dental leaders from Tyler to serve on the task force: John Adcock, Kent Boozer, Chuck Cox, Larry Murph, David Nichols, Will Parks, Merwyn Pickle, Brady Swinney, Chip Swinney, and Radford Tarry. TJC representatives on the task force included, Carrie Hobbs, department chair of dental studies, and Julie Mettlen, dental hygiene professor.

The task force set a fundraising goal of \$250,000, which made some members nervous. After all, this was new territory and TJC had not pursued significant private funding in the past to support the dental clinic and the dental hygiene program. The first priority was educating area dentists.

"I was astonished at the number of dentists who had no idea that a dental hygiene school even existed at TJC," Scott Ellis said. "The task force showed the dental community both the excellent work that has been done by the department, and also the potential for new training opportunities with better equipment.



Members of the Rotary Club of Tyler recently presented a \$50,000 check to Tyler Junior College, to name an instrument sterilization lab in TJC's new dental clinic. From left, Brandon Malone, Tyler Rotary president; Dr. Joe Prud'homme, TJC board president; Justin Holt, Rotary Foundation; Fran Hall, Tyler Rotary executive secretary; Andy Christopher, Rotary past president; Lisa Chatteron, Rotary president elect; and Dr. Mike Metke, TJC president.

"The new clinic has the latest technology and the capacity to increase the class size for the dental hygiene program. More operatory chairs and more units available also means more patient services."

The Texas Department of Health & Human Services has called dental care "the greatest unmet health care need" in East Texas, and the TJC dental clinic has a legacy of providing low-cost dental care to East Texas. With the new clinic, TJC has established a partnership with University of Texas Health Northeast and will increase dental services to the underserved.

"Almost every dental hygienist I've employed has been a graduate of TJC," said Paul Latta. "TJC turns out awesome graduates, but it's been in spite of the outdated facilities. The department has continued to produce highly qualified clinicians that perform well in the dental offices. The new clinic will allow for the establishment of an accredited dental assisting program and the state-of-the-art facilities will allow graduates of both the dental hygiene and dental assisting programs to incorporate seamlessly into dental practices."

No one felt the need for upgraded facilities as strongly as Carrie Hobbs. She joined the program six years after it began and has watched the dental field progress into paperless offices, digital x-rays, new materials and better patient comfort.

"The new facility provides space for more dental hygiene students and more clinical experience for each student," she said. "We now have space for a new accredited certified dental assisting program."

The Rotary Club of Tyler adopted the clinic as its 2014 community project and the beneficiary of its first-ever fund raising gala. As a result, \$50,000 was given to name the sterilization laboratory.

"As a club, we wanted to make an impact grant that would benefit Tyler and the surrounding communities," said Rotary president Brandon Malone. "We have dentists in our club who have been involved with the TJC dental program and clinic for several years, so when we were presented with the opportunity of working with the program, it was a perfect fit."

To date, \$310,000 has been pledged to support the new dental clinic—exceeding the task force members' original expectations and securing a future for a program that meets community needs and produces qualified graduates in this important field.

For more information about investing in the TJC dental clinic and programs, contact Mitch Andrews, TJC executive director of advancement and alumni engagement, at 903-510-2034 or [mand@tjc.edu](mailto:mand@tjc.edu).

Becca Anderson is a contributing writer to the *Apache Magazine*.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Dental hygiene graduates honor former professor, issue \$10,000 challenge for others to contribute

By Becca Anderson

Students know the challenges of paying for schooling, and graduates of the dental hygiene class of 2015 are giving back to help future students. They contributed \$1,000 toward the establishment of an endowed scholarship in honor of retiring professor Nancy Stewart and have challenged others to help raise the rest of the required \$10,000 for the fund. The announcement was made at a reception honoring Stewart's retirement from TJC, held May 1.

Stewart graduated from the TJC Dental Hygiene Program in 1974 and spent 25 years working as a dental hygienist. She joined the TJC faculty as a full-time instructor in 1999, became sophomore clinical coordinator in 2001 and received her B.S. degree from UT Tyler in 2004. Her drive to educate others and continue her own education set an example for her students.



Nancy Stewart (right) presents an award to a dental hygiene student during the 2014 pinning ceremony.

"Nancy brought much wisdom to the program from her years in private practice," said Carrie Hobbs, TJC department chair of dental studies. "Not only did she dedicate herself to providing excellent education to more than 300 dental hygiene students during her tenure, but she also instilled in them a level of professionalism and good character they will carry the rest of their lives."

Ryanne Killian, 2015 class president, studied under Stewart.

"When our class heard about the scholarship in Mrs. Stewart's name, there was no question about making a pledge toward it. Being able to make a contribution in her name was an honor. We challenge the community to make a donation to the endowment so Mrs. Stewart's legacy may live on by helping future students achieve their dreams. I can't think of a better way to honor her."

To contribute to the endowed scholarship, contact Mitch Andrews at 903-510-2034 or [mand@tjc.edu](mailto:mand@tjc.edu).

## TJC Student Nurses Association establishes annual scholarship

The TJC Student Nurses Association established an annual scholarship to benefit students in the associate degree nursing program. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in spring 2015.

Inaugural recipients of the award were Anna Boyett and Darla Mullens. Funds to support the scholarship are raised through membership dues and fundraising activities throughout the year.

The group seeks to recognize and reward nursing students who demonstrate exceptional leadership skills in the classroom and clinical setting and who have made a significant impact through campus involvement at TJC or the community at large. Recipients are nominated for the award by nursing faculty.

*Continued from page 5*

On the inside, two of the three stories are filled with open learning labs, exposed beams, and common areas for instructors and students to gather, free from the constraints of a traditional classroom.

In the fall, students in the Luminant Academy will return from their summer internships at power plants to fill those learning labs. Luminant, a driving force behind the expansion of the West Campus, helped spearhead the power plant technology program at TJC, and was a major reason for the construction of the new center. Luminant, which runs major coal-burning power plants in Texas, has an aging workforce and needs young talent to take over.

In addition, new programs range from ammonia certification (requested by Brookshire Grocery Co.); biomedical equipment repair; electrical and electronic controls; geothermal, industrial electrical maintenance; instrument and control; mechanical, robotic and automated systems; and solar and wind.

"One of the things [our team] talked about was that the faculty have a place they're proud of," Ziegler said. "It helps with retention and recruiting. People always argue, 'Does architecture really matter? Does it make a difference?'"

"There's a difference in what kind of investment someone has made where you are. That was one of the reasons why

we wanted this to be an invigorating environment."

When asked about her favorite part of the building, Ziegler points to the three-story tower, dominating the small swatch of land dedicated to the West Campus.

"On a small scale, though, I like the art piece," referring to the two-by-fours hanging on the wall. "Everyone jokes, 'OK, what's the hidden message in this?'"

"It's a statement about energy; where energy has come from and where we are now."

Allen Arrick is TJC multimedia content producer.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Annual Awards of Excellence Luncheon recognizes talented recipients



*E. Fred Herschbach Foreign Language Award*  
TJC President Dr. Mike Metke and Jason Alford



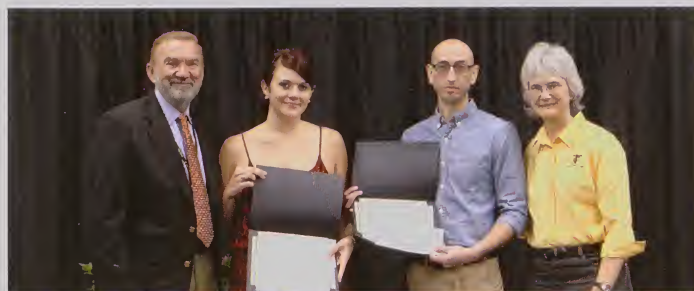
*Dale and Cathryn Cates Award for Excellence*  
Dr. Metke and Jordan Spaude



*Watson W. Wise Incentive Award*  
Dr. Metke and Kelsey Stewart



*Raul and Caridad Hernandez Endowed Scholarship*  
Dr. Metke, Isaac Lenz, Rodney Whetzel and Idalia Trent



*TJC Anatomy and Physiology Faculty Endowed Scholarship*  
Dr. Metke, Leanne Hendrix, Gonzalo Fernandez and Dr. Betsy Ott



*TJC Social Science Department Scholarship of Excellence*  
Dr. Metke, Destiny Eaton, Allison Jones, Geoffrey Willbanks and Deborah Beange



*Katie Bryant Endowed Award for Excellence*  
Dr. Metke, Alexandra Oates, Dr. Rita Bryant Turner and Heather Mensch



*Austin P. Turner Award for Excellence*  
Metke, Kindie Chapman, Dr. Rita Bryant Turner, Deborah Welch and Mary Scarborough



*TJC Accounting Department Annual Scholarship*  
Metke, Aldwin Erning, Olivia Baker, Brittany Jackson, Welch and Scarborough



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

## AZALEA ORTHOPEDICS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015  
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Make a difference  
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in sponsorships  
to benefit TJC students.

Support students  
while you dine!



PROMOTIONAL DINING DAY  
Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Portofino's will donate 10%  
of proceeds to fund  
TJC scholarships.

### 2015 TOURNAMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Pictured from left to right: Darin Newhouse, Tom Seale, Loren Bennett, Brenda Thomas, Claude Henry (chair), Paul Latta, Gary Ables, Eleanor Stringer, Robert Gentry

BENEFITTING THE TJC FOUNDATION

For more information visit [tjc.edu/golftournament](http://tjc.edu/golftournament) or call 903.510.3158.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## TJC among select group recognized for sustained excellence in educational fundraising

Tyler Junior College is one of 15 educational institutions to receive the 2015 Sustained Excellence in Educational Fundraising Award from The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, an international association of educational institutions headquartered in Washington, D.C.

CASE named 90 colleges and universities and 16 independent schools as recipients of its 2015 Educational Fundraising Awards, which recognize U.S. institutions for overall performance and improvement in educational fundraising programs.

Sustained Excellence Awards recognize institutions that have received CASE Educational Fundraising Awards in overall performance or overall improvement in three of the last five years.

Since this is TJC's third consecutive year to be named a winner, it earns the "sustained excellence" distinction.

Institutions receiving 2015 Sustained Excellence Awards are:

- Angelo State University (Texas)
- Bennington College (Vermont)
- Bowdoin College (Maine)
- Brunswick School (Connecticut)
- Claremont McKenna College (California)
- Davidson College (North Carolina)
- Harvard University (Massachusetts)
- The Hockaday School (Texas)
- John Brown University (Arkansas)
- Northern Wyoming Community College
- San Diego State University (California)
- Tyler Junior College (Texas)
- United States Military Academy (New York)
- University of Southern California
- Villanova University (Pennsylvania)

"We are honored that Tyler Junior College was selected for this award," said Dr. Kim Russell, TJC vice president for advancement and external affairs. Russell also serves as executive director of the



*The Tyler Junior College Foundation investment committee, from left, includes: Dr. Kim Russell, TJC vice president for advancement and external affairs and executive director of the TJC Foundation; Dr. Mike Metke, TJC president; Nancy Davis, TJC Foundation accountant; Jim Perkins, committee member; David McCullough, committee member; Lee Gibson, committee member; and Billy Hibbs, committee chair.*

TJC Foundation. "Our success is due to the TJC Foundation board of directors and, specifically, our dedicated investment committee.

"We thank TJC President Dr. Mike Metke for his outstanding leadership of the college and support of the foundation."

Members of the TJC Foundation investment committee are: Billy Hibbs, chair; James I. Perkins; Lee Gibson; Eleanor Stringer; and David McCullough.

Award selection is based on data submitted to the Council for Aid to Education's annual Voluntary Support of Education survey. A CASE member institution is automatically eligible to receive an overall performance or overall improvement award provided it has participated in the VSE survey for the past three years.

Judges reviewed the fundraising data of 571 eligible institutions before naming the award winners. Of the 90 colleges and

universities selected, 42 won an award for overall performance in fundraising, 39 won an award for overall improvement in fundraising while 9 were recognized with both overall performance and overall improvement awards. Eight independent schools won for overall performance in fundraising while six won for overall improvement.

"I am pleased that the judges this year recognized 22 first-time award winners and 15 institutions for sustained excellence in fundraising," says Brian Flahaven, director of legislative, foundation and recognition programs. "Fundraising at educational institutions continues to grow on campuses across the country as more institutions realize the high-value and impact of well-maintained fundraising programs. These awards acknowledge the exceptional work of those institutions."

For more on CASE, go to [www.case.org](http://www.case.org).



# ONCAMPUS

## TJC testing center earns national certification

With millions of educational certification and licensure tests administered in the U.S. every year, the need for secure testing environments and trained testing staff has never been greater.

One local testing center has set the bar high for other post-secondary test centers and achieved national status as a leader in excellent testing practices.

The Tyler Junior College Testing Services Center was recently awarded Test Center Certification by the National College Testing Association.

Criteria for certification are rigorous and based on the NCTA Professional Standards and Guidelines, which were developed to guide post-secondary test centers in the delivery of quality testing programs.

TJC Testing Services is one of the few test centers in the U.S. and Canada to have completed this intensive certification process. This certification will be in place for five years and can be renewed by demonstrating continued compliance to national standards.

NCTA congratulated Roger Grimm and the entire staff of TJC Testing Services for maintaining high testing administration standards and for providing excellent service to a wide variety of students and community members in the performance of their duties.

The National College Testing Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of professionalism and high quality service in the administration of testing programs, offers certification to college and university test centers that demonstrate exemplary practices.

NCTA membership numbers more than 2,100 testing professionals from 615 colleges and universities as well as 42 test companies and organizations offering test-related products and services.

Contact TJC Testing Services at 903-510-2389 for more information about the numerous testing services provided, or go to [www.tjc.edu/testing](http://www.tjc.edu/testing).

## TJC professor Jodi Seal earns designation as Certified Nurse Educator

Jodi Seal, an associate degree nursing professor at Tyler Junior College, has earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator through a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the National League of Nursing.

Seal has been a professor in the TJC Associate Degree Nursing program for five years.

"The certification is a mark of professionalism and indicates to students, peers and academic and health care communities that the highest standards of excellence are being met," Seal said.

"There are several areas of certification/specialization in the nursing field and this has been created specifically for nursing education."

National League of Nursing CEO Dr. Beverly Malone said, "The NLN's Academic Nurse Educator Certification program has conferred new visibility and stature upon the academic nursing community that is long overdue."

Through the certification program, we have made clear to the ranks of higher education that the role of nurse educator is an advanced professional practice discipline with a defined practice setting and demonstrable standards of excellence."

There are now more than 4,000 certified nursing educators in the continental United States.



Jodi Seal

Many academic nursing programs in colleges and university settings have recognized the importance of the certification and encourage all eligible nursing faculty to become certified.

With nearly half (42.8 percent) of nurse faculty projected to retire within the next decade and nearly three-quarters (69.7 percent) within 15 years, replacing them is of grave concern to nursing and nursing education.

Dedicated to excellence in nursing, the National League for Nursing is the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education.

The NLN offers faculty development, networking opportunities, testing services, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives to its 37,000 individual and more than 1,200 institutional members comprising nursing education programs across the spectrum of higher education and health care organizations.



# ONCAMPUS

## TJC science center hosts star (and vehicle) of new 'Tornado Alley' film

To kick off its summer schedule, the Center for Earth & Space Science Education at Tyler Junior College played host to special guests on June 13, in conjunction with the premiere of the film "Tornado Alley," now playing in the 40-foot domed theatre.

Sean Casey, star of Discovery Channel's popular "Storm Chasers" series, brought his 14,000-pound Tornado Intercept Vehicle to the center for up-close viewing. Visitors met Casey and got a look at the TIV, both featured in the film, as part of an outreach campaign demonstrating how the Doppler on Wheels research tools and tornado pod findings improve the ability to predict when and where tornadoes will strike, ensuring greater safety to those in harm's way.

Casey introduced screenings of the film throughout the day and answered questions about his research, the movie and the TIV.

"Tornado Alley" engages audiences with the innovative and important aspects of tornado research. The film's research is intended to assist in public safety by increasing tornado-warning times and reducing the false-alarm rates.



*In one of the best show-and-tell sessions ever, Sean Casey, star of Discovery Channel's "Storm Chasers" series, brought his 14,000-pound Tornado Intercept Vehicle for a visit to the Center for Earth & Space Science Education at Tyler Junior College.*

By making science relevant, the TJC science center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region, motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology and foster lifelong learning for people of all ages.

For more information, go to [tjc.edu/CESSE](http://tjc.edu/CESSE).

## Lessner named director of the Center for Earth & Space Science Education at TJC

Kim Lessner has been named director of the Center for Earth & Space Science Education at Tyler Junior College.

She oversees the science center's growth and development, with primary responsibility for overall leadership, management, planning and fundraising activities.

"I am excited to be part of an organization that has such a deep heritage in bringing the mystery of space and our universe to the East Texas community," Lessner said.

"By making science both relevant and fun, we have an opportunity to increase science literacy in our region, inspire young people to seek careers in science and technology, and foster lifelong learning for people of all ages."

Most recently, Lessner served as development director for PATH in Tyler, where she was responsible for fundraising efforts, public relations, marketing, communications and special events such as PATH Week.



*Kim Lessner*

Prior to moving to Tyler, Lessner's corporate business experience focused on market strategy and business development, with more than 25 years of experience. She was chief marketing officer at Protection One and also vice president of marketing at Verizon Communications in New York. Her earlier experiences include strategic marketing and business development positions at Nissan Motor Corporation and Sears, Roebuck & Company.

Lessner is a graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia, with a bachelor's degree in economics. She and her husband moved to the Tyler area in 2012 to be closer to family and friends.



# ONCAMPUS

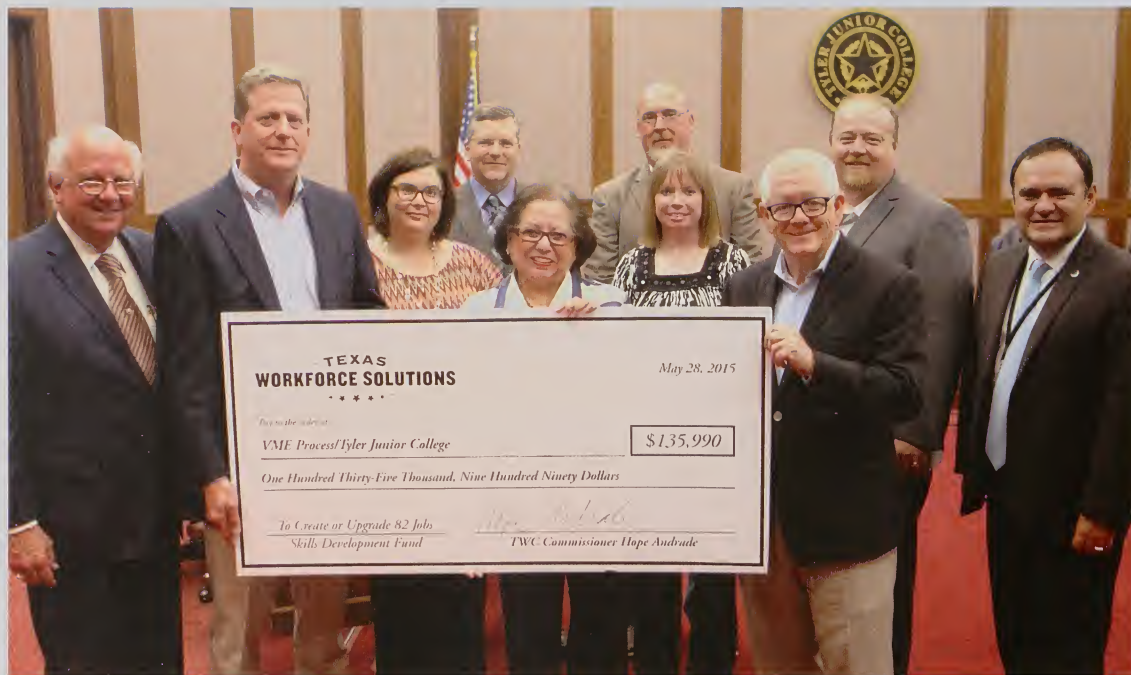
## VME Process partners with TJC for \$135,990 grant from Texas Workforce Commission

VME Process has partnered with Tyler Junior College to provide job training using a \$135,990 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission. The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions East Texas area.

The grant will be used to custom train 82 new and incumbent workers to increase technical skill levels in customer service, basic computing, safety procedures and risk management. Those trained will include office administration personnel, productions helpers and structural welders. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$17.98.

"This Skills grant reflects a key partnership forged between Tyler Junior College and this local manufacturer, VME Process," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade. "The resulting training will allow this Texas employer the workforce it needs to grow while giving employees from this region the opportunity to advance their skill sets."

From the program's inception in 1996 through 2014, Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than



TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade (center) presents a \$135,990 Skills Development Fund grant to representatives from Tyler Junior College and VME Process. Front, from left: Tyler Junior College Dean of Continuing Studies Dr. Aubrey Sharpe, VME Fabricators Vice President Greg Dean, Commissioner Andrade, Tyler Economic Development Council President/CEO Tom Mullins, Tyler Junior College Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Juan Mejia. Representatives from VME Process (back) attended the ceremonial check presentation benefitting 82 new and incumbent employees.

316,000 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,074 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature allocated nearly \$48 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2014-15 biennium.

Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at [www.texasworkforce.org/skills](http://www.texasworkforce.org/skills).

## TJC program receives special designation from Eastman Chemical Company



Eastman Chemical Co., Texas Operations, has designated Tyler Junior College's Power Plant Technology Program as one of its validated programs. As part of the designation, TJC students who come to work for Eastman will: start at a higher pay rate and be able to progress to top pay in one year; receive credit for training already completed through their TJC technical degree; and spend less time in the classroom and lab portions of Eastman's employee training program. Pictured from left, James C. Stark, Eastman assistant superintendent of cogeneration operations; Larry Howard, TJC program coordinator of power plant technology; Bryan Baker, program chairman industrial trades; and Mike Tucker, Eastman senior training manager.



# ONCAMPUS



Tyler Junior College's 2014 TV commercial, "You're Ready for This," received one of only 14 grand gold awards presented in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's 2014 Circle of Excellence Awards program. Other institutions receiving grand gold awards included: Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, UC Berkeley and Wake Forest University. TJC was the only grand gold winner from Texas and the only winning two-year institution. The "Ready" commercial served as the genesis for TJC's Fall 2014 advertising campaign, which featured the above photo on billboards and other marketing materials. TJC's ad campaign received a CASE silver award.

## TJC wins national awards for excellence in educational marketing and advertising

Tyler Junior College received grand gold and silver awards in marketing and advertising categories in the 2014 Circle of Excellence program of The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, an international association of educational institutions, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

TJC's Fall 2014 TV commercial, "You're Ready for This," was named the grand gold award-winner in the PSA and Commercial Spots category.

Other winning institutions in the category were: Brigham Young University, gold; University of Oregon, silver; and Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), bronze.

Only 14 institutions received the top prize of a grand gold award, including: Emory University (Ga.); Imperial College London (U.K.); Johns Hopkins University (Md.); Lawrence University (Wis.); New York University; Northwestern University (Ill.); Oberlin College (Ohio); Stetson University (Fla.); The Park School of Baltimore (Md.); The University of Manitoba (Canada); Tyler Junior College (Texas); University of California, Berkeley; University of California, San Francisco; University of Glasgow (U.K.); University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; and Wake Forest University (N.C.).

TJC's marketing team collaborated with Red Productions in Fort Worth to create

the TV commercial.

TJC and Red Productions staff members came up with the following project goals:

- Be memorable
- Sell lifestyle, opportunity and affordability at TJC
- Set TJC apart with a video that isn't just another cookie-cutter school ad

The commercial compresses the first 20-something years of a person's life into one minute. It's fun. It's poppy. And it has a break-neck pace.

"Tyler Junior College's recognition is significant for two reasons," said Paul Heaton, director of the CASE Center for Community College Advancement, CASE's component dedicated to community colleges.

"First, grand gold awards are only presented when an entry is considered to be truly exceptional. Second, there were 35 other entries in this category – most from large four-year institutions that have larger budgets and staffs than community colleges. The judges noted that TJC went above and beyond in creativity and uniqueness."

In the Advertising Campaign category, TJC's 2014 campaign, also titled "You're Ready for This," tied for silver with the University of Baltimore.

Other institutions in that category were: University of Minnesota – Twin Cities,

Grand Gold; University of Massachusetts, gold; and Dartmouth College, bronze.

Community college winners will be recognized in CASE Council for Community College Advancement's annual conference in October in Anaheim, California.

TJC's marketing team includes: Jessica Alexander, photographer/graphic designer; Allen Arrick, web content producer; Susie Bell, graphic designer; Duane Jeffers, web developer; Elise Mullinix, editorial manager; Pamela Rathbun, creative services manager; and Leah Wansley, web and rich media manager.

"I am so proud of our entire marketing team," said Dr. Kim Russell, TJC vice president for advancement and external affairs.

"They are exceptionally talented and continue to strengthen and improve the Tyler Junior College brand with limited resources. It's truly an honor to be recognized by CASE as a Grand Gold Circle of Excellence Award winner."

This year, 629 higher education institutions, independent schools and nonprofits worldwide submitted more than 3,000 entries in 100 categories for consideration in the CASE Circle of Excellence awards program.

Judges gave 285 bronze, silver and gold awards.



# ONCAMPUS

## Four TJC professors named 2015 endowed teaching chairs

Four Tyler Junior College professors have distinguished themselves as endowed teaching chairs for 2015.

The TJC Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence program enables professors to nominate and reward their peers who demonstrate excellence as educators.

This year's endowed chair recipients are:

- **Gigi Delk**, computer information systems/game and simulation development professor, The Mable Williams Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence
- **Stephanie Lassanske**, social work/sociology professor, The Thomas H. Shelby Jr. Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence
- **Mary Pyle**, criminal justice professor, The George W. Pirtle and El Freda Taylor Pirtle Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence
- **Lara Smith**, speech professor and chair of the TJC Department of Speech, Theater and Dance, The Dorothy Fay and Jack White Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence



Gigi Delk



Stephanie Lassanske



Mary Pyle



Lara Smith

Winners were surprised during their respective classes with a fanfare of applause and balloons, followed by presentations of certificates and checks from TJC President Dr. Mike Metke and Dr. Juan Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.

Endowed teaching chair recipients receive \$2,000 for each of two years (\$4,000 total), which includes a \$1,500 cash stipend and \$500 for professional development for each year. The professional development portion may be applied toward a personal professional development plan, including travel, books, conferences and equipment.

Nineteen, full-time TJC professors were nominated by their peers to apply for the award. Of the 19 nominees, 12 professors chose to undergo the intense application process.

Those 12 nominees were: Karen Anglin, TSI mathematics; Jacob Cabera, vocational nursing education; Chris Chappa, mathematics; Delk; Lassanske; Angela Porter, speech; Pyle; Jenelle Reynolds, TSI mathematics; Jodi Seal, associate degree nursing; Smith; Desha Stewart, TSI writing; and Maria Stewart, vocational nursing education.

## TJC communications students win 39 awards, sweep top honors at state conference

Tyler Junior College communications and media students swept the competition at their annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference held this spring in San Antonio.

TJC brought home 39 awards in all and took top honors in their division for the student newspaper, The Apache Pow Wow. The students won Best of Show for Division 3, First Place for Overall Excellence for Newspaper Division 4, as well as Sweepstakes for Newspaper Division 4.

TJC alumna Sarah McClendon was posthumously inducted into the TIPA Hall of Fame. McClendon was born in Tyler in 1910 and began her career on small Texas newspapers before moving to the Washington bureau of The Philadelphia Daily News in 1944. Two years later she started her news service. She was the nation's longest-serving White House reporter, beginning in 1944 during Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration through the George W. Bush administration. She was celebrated for her

pointed questions at presidential news conferences that included local concerns in Texas and government lapses overlooked by others. She died in 2003, at the age of 92.

In addition, TJC student newspaper adviser Laura Jett Krantz was named president of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

The TJC students placed in an array of categories from design and layout, to news and sports feature writing, to photography and radio production.

"I am proud of my students who showed that TJC is preparing them with the tools to succeed in an ever-changing news business," said Laura Krantz, TJC department chair of communications & student media and TIPA president. "I am particularly proud of our showing in the Online and Broadcasting categories where we went head-to-head with some of the largest universities in the state, including private schools."



# ALUMNI NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM THE TJC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dear Apaches,

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Apache Magazine. There have been some amazing additions to our beloved school! If you haven't been to the campus lately, you gotta go! You can call the alumni office and ask the director to give you a tour. While you are there, be sure to fill out your paperwork to become a lifetime member of the alumni association. Not only can you get

complimentary admission to fine arts and sporting events on campus and discounts in the campus bookstore, but the alumni staff is working to add more benefits all the time.

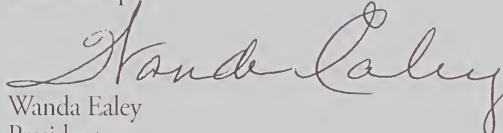
In only three months, we will be gathering for our annual Apache Homecoming. This year's program is shaping up to be the best ever and one you won't want to miss! In addition to the Alumni Awards Dinner and the great tailgate party before we play

Georgia Military Academy, we are expanding the parade, and the Homecoming Mardi Gras theme should make for a week-long party atmosphere! Alumni are building a float for the parade, and we'd love your help!

Be sure and follow us at [facebook.com/TJCAumniAssociation](https://facebook.com/TJCAumniAssociation). When there, "like" the page and ask your friends to do the same. The alumni office will be posting current happenings on the Facebook page, including discounts for alumni to special attractions!

I look forward to seeing you at all the Homecoming 2015 activities!

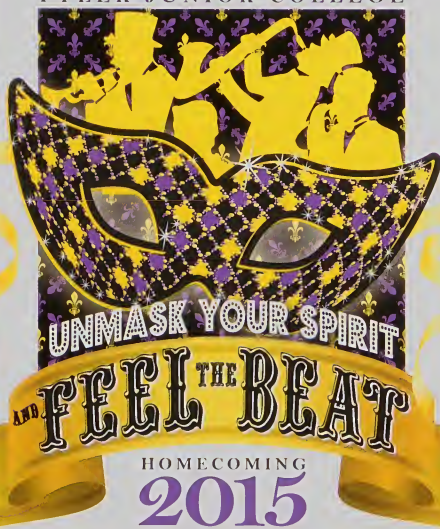
Feathers Up!



Wanda Ealey  
President  
TJC Alumni Association

## SAVE THE DATE

TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE™



**OCT 5**  
**Drumbeat/Kickoff Ceremony**

**OCT 8**  
**Campus Capers**

**OCT 9**  
**Parade, Picnic, and Alumni Association Awards Dinner**

**OCT 10**  
**Reunions for:**

Sign Language Alumni (20th)  
Phi Theta Kappa Alumni (85th)  
Brothers and Sisters (annual)  
Football Fiftieth (Class of 1965)

**Alumni & Student Tailgates**  
**Game • 3 p.m. • Rose Stadium**  
*Against Georgia Military Academy*



# CLASSNOTES

## 1980

James "Wally" Brewster has attended Lindale High School, Tyler Junior College, and Texas A&M University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In 2010, he started his own company: SB&K Global based in Chicago. Soon after, he was named as the National Co-Chair of the LGBT Leadership Council for the Democratic National Committee. Brewster has also worked with the Human Rights Campaign for more than 20 years, and was sworn in as the country's top diplomat for the Dominican Republic in November 2013. To say Brewster's introduction to the Dominican Republic as an openly gay man was rocky would be an understatement. Many thought he would suffer and be forced to leave the country; however, U.S. Embassy spokesman Daniel Foote responded, "Brewster was nominated because of his skills as an international businessman and his ideas on democracy and human rights, he is not coming here as an activist for the gay community." Following the initial controversy, the people of the Dominican Republic have been more than accepting.

## 1989

The East Texas Baptist University Board of Trustees elected Dr. J. Blair Blackburn of Dallas, Texas, as its next president. Blackburn earned his associate of arts degree from Tyler Junior College and graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. He also holds a Master of Science degree in higher education administration from Texas A&M-Commerce. He earned his Doctor of Education in educational administration degree from Baylor University. Blackburn said, "I am excited and humbled that the Lord has called me to serve as president of East Texas Baptist University."

## 1994

Jaymie Poeschl Massey has recently joined Shell as Social Media Community Manager in Houston, TX.

## 2008

JP Fugler, a former TJC student and current speech teacher at Van High School, was the only teacher in Texas to receive the 2015 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award. He was a standout speech student at TJC and after his time here, Fugler transferred to The University of Texas at Tyler to continue his education. His favorite speech teacher at TJC, M'Liss Hindman, was one of his biggest

inspirations, and he gives her credit for shaping him as an educator.

## 2014

Jonathan D. Brunner is attending The University of Texas at Tyler to receive his bachelor's degree in psychology.

Jillian Battle started her new career at East Texas Medical Center and was hired before she graduated. She is currently going through her nurse residency program.

Karina Chavez is working as a paralegal.

Krystal Coleman recently moved to Pensacola, Florida, and works at the Baptist Hospital.

Lori J. Folks began attending Texas A&M-Commerce in Spring 2015.

Cierra Gillilan began the ADN program at TJC in Spring 2015. She is nervous but also very excited for these next two years at TJC.

Dylan Humphrey is opening his own storefront in Tyler called Kool Kakes by Dylan. He has been decorating cakes since he was 11 years old. He plans to open in July 2015.

Nicole Jabo is continuing her studies at TJC and will begin nursing school this fall.

Silvia B. King became the human resources representative of Goodwill Industries University. She is working toward her bachelor's degree in human resources development.

Dalton R. Knight is continuing his education at The University of Texas at Tyler for his bachelor's degree in nursing. He is currently working at the Texas Workforce Commission and at Trinity Mother Frances in integrated services.

Freedom Logbeck is continuing her education for her bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Sam Houston State University.

Reagan Minefee is continuing her education at the University of North Texas.

Idong Okon is currently attending the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Melissa G. Preston will be attending Sam Houston State University to work toward her bachelor's degree.

James M. Ray and wife Shyanne just purchased their first home and had their first child.

Hannah L. Robey will be moving on to play Division 1 Volleyball at Arkansas State University.

Nancy Saucedo was hired as an electrical designer at S&B Engineers and Constructors and works under contract with Eastman Chemical Company.

Cassandra E. Sampson had the opportunity to speak at the East Texas Chapter of the American Council of the Blind. She enjoys public speaking.

Mark A. Spencer is currently attending The University of Texas at Tyler.

Stephanie M. Spencer is attending University of Texas at Arlington to double major in business and theatre.

Kayla J. Weller and Thomas Weller had a baby girl named Naomi Eden Rose on Jan. 7, 2015 weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz. and measured 22 inches in length.

Cynthia A. Wheeler is working for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and at the Johnston Unit SAFPF as a substance abuse counselor.

## TJC Family

Tyler resident Mary Hudson loves the pool so much she set out to swim 90 pool lengths in honor of her 90th birthday. She is a retired teacher now, but continues to teach adult swimming classes at TJC. She walks every morning and swims two or three times a week.

Coach Fred Kniffen was inducted into the 2015 ITA Men's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame on May 20. Kniffen was a standout player at Hardin Simmons, and was head coach of both TJC and UT Tyler. At TJC, Kniffen won four NJCAA national championships, was named the National Junior College Men's Coach of the Year in 1980 and 1983, National Women's Coach of the Year in 1983 and 1984 and helped 31 players earn All-American honors. TJC inducted Kniffen into its athletic department Circle of Honor in 2001. After his time at UT Tyler, he was inducted into the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1993.

Ken and Betty Willis, of Waco, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.



# CLASSNOTES

## Memorials

**1932**

Dorothy L. Allen, Oct. 15, 2014, Tyler

**1933**

Frances Margaret Beal Purinton, April 2, 2015, Lexington, KY

**1937**

Edith A. George, Jan. 4, 2015, Houston

**1938**

Ardelle B. Howard, Aug. 21, 2014, Tyler

**1941**

O.L. 'Buddy' Ferrell, Jan. 24, 2015, Tyler

**1942**

Virginia McCain Skeen, April 5, 2015, Tyler

**1946**

Hazel Curry Millington, Feb. 21, 2015, Tyler

**1947**

Charlie Jackson, Jr. May 4, 2014, Athens

**1948**

T. Acker Hanks, Feb. 1, 2015, Tyler

**1949**

JoAnn Smith Lewis, March 17, 2014, Dallas

Dolores Coke Parker Strong, June 4, 2015, Tyler

**1950**

Dr. Johnnie Human, May 12, 2015, Tyler

**1951**

Dwight S. Ewing M.D., March 14, 2015, Tyler

Floyd E. Rix, Feb. 16, 2015, Tyler

Virgie Lou Barron Rozell, Feb. 4, 2015, Tyler

**1953**

Bennie Jean McMillan, Jan. 21, 2015, Tyler

**1954**

Thomas G. Evans, Jan. 26, 2015, Nacogdoches

**1956**

Bennie James McFadden, Sept. 27, 2014, Tyler

Pedro "Pete" Martinez, IV, Dec. 23, 2014, Tyler

**1957**

Harold R. Williams, Feb. 17, 2015, Tyler

**1960**

Dianne Fulcher Bright, May 7, 2015, Tyler

Shirley Ford McHam, Feb. 23, 2015, Lindale

**1962**

Phyllis Baldwin Duke, May 4, 2015, Tyler

**1964**

Ann Davis Miller, Feb. 4, 2015, Tyler

**1965**

Evelyn L. Tomlin, Jan. 5, 2015, Whitehouse

**1967**

Charles M. Hearon, Sept. 23, 2014, Sugarland

Cedric F. Mosley, Jan. 1, 2015, Tyler

**1968**

Dianne D. Rex, May 22, 2015, Tyler

Derene Gilley Standifer, Nov. 1, 2014, Tyler

**1969**

James Hugh Denson, Feb. 26, 2015, Tyler

**1970**

Donna Kay Barbee, Jan. 23, 2015, Tyler

Neil James O'Toole, Jan. 26, 2014, Tyler

**1971**

Donald R. Clement, Feb. 28, 2015, Tyler

Kay Newman, Jan. 1, 2015, Pampa

**1973**

Gary L. Thedford, Jan. 14, 2015, Tyler

**1976**

Billy Wayne Bobbitt, May 2, 2015, Tyler

**1977**

Edward L. Norris, Nov. 25, 2014, Tyler

**1978**

Dr. Kathie U. Butler, May 11, 2015, Stockton, CA

**1979**

Gary E. Allen, May 25, 2015, Tyler

Jill Pope Stanton, Dec. 3, 2014, Palestine and Ft. Collins, CO

**1980**

Debbie Brown Washington, Jan. 23, 2015, Tyler

**1981**

Bruce F. McCullough, Feb. 13, 2015, Cedar Park

Randy Paul Meadows, Jan. 26, 2015, Tyler

**1982**

Derrick Ray Simmons, Feb. 21, 2015, Denton

**1983**

James 'Rodney' Dozier, June 10, 2014, Whitehouse

Starla Hand Horton, Sept. 6, 2014, Tyler

**1984**

Lt. Col. Von W. Freeman, June 26, 2013, Tyler

**1985**

Johnny H. York, March 10, 2015, Dallas

**1986**

Thomas E. Clark, Sr.  
Darcie Kight, Oct. 30, 2014, Tyler

**1987**

Tennie F. Hulsey, Jan. 2, 2015, Lindale  
Kevin Laird, June 17, 2014, Tyler

**1989**

Janet Huckabay Weesner, Jan. 28, 2015, Tyler

**1996**

Natalie Shanna L. Brooks, Dec. 24, 2014, Tyler

**1998**

Kitina Evans Robertson, Jan. 12, 2015, Tyler

**1999**

Darren J. Nickerson, April 26, 2015, Dallas

**2000**

Jason D. Cutting, May 18, 2014, Austin

**2001**

James R. Campbell, Jr., July 30, 2010, Bridgeport, TX

W. Brandon Smith, June 5, 2015, Tyler

**2002**

Julie Miller Patrick, Jan. 15, 2015, Chandler

**2003**

Chris M. Pitts, March 4, 2015, Houston

Jarrett D. Rider, March 16, 2015, Chapel Hill

Licori Shackelford, June 28, 2014, Denton

**2004**

Regina Washington Wade, Jan. 18, 2015, Tyler

**2005**

Blake Jason Larrew, Oct. 3, 2014, Tyler

**2006**

Brandon Gray, Sr., Dec. 21, 2014, Tyler

**2008**

Steven A. Murry, May 26, 2014, Tyler



# CLASSNOTES

## 2009

Christy T. Dennis, May 11, 2014, Tyler

## 2011

J. Danielle Crump, Oct. 24, 2013, Longview

## 2013

Jerrad A. Hunt, Feb. 28, 2015, Longview

## 2015

Todd Donnell Whitlock, Feb. 1, 2015, Tyler

## TJC Family

Dr. Johnny Armstrong Abbey, Jan. 2, 2014, Tyler

Dorothy L. Allen, Oct. 15, 2014, Tyler

Harold B. Allen, Jan. 26, 2015, Tyler

Ina Brundrett, June 3, 2015, Tyler

M. Frances Etheridge, Jan. 19, 2015, Plano

Carolyn Hendon, Oct. 30, 2014, Tyler

Katherine Deer Hudson, August, 22, 2014, Tyler

Lois A. Jakubik, Sept. 29, 2010, Troup

J.W. "Jubby" Johnson, Jan. 27, 2015, Tyler

Jan P. Kent, Jan. 1, 2015, Tyler

Elizabeth Harwick "Betty" Lee, Nov. 19, 2013, Tyler

Joe G. Lessert, April 1, 2015, Tyler

Adelia 'Dee' Rose Duhon Miller, August 29, 2014, Tyler

## TJC Friend

C.C. Baker, Nov. 28, 2014, Tyler

John Glass, Jr., Jan. 30, 2015, Tyler

LaValta Fowler, August 15, 2014, Tyler

Thomas J. Lawson, March 21, 2015, Tyler



### Pricing

Quadruple occupancy: \$1600 per person

Double occupancy: \$1950 per person

Single occupancy: \$2700 per person

### Cost includes:

- Roundtrip, nonstop flight on American Airlines from DFW to Honolulu
- Six nights at Outrigger Reef Waikiki hotel w/buffet breakfast each morning
- Bus transfers to airport, hotel and performance venue

Deadline for \$200 deposit: Friday, Oct. 30 • To register, go to [tjc.edu/Hawaii2016](http://tjc.edu/Hawaii2016)



# ALUMNI NEWS

Methodist Church; past chairman of Hospice of East Texas; past chairman of Pollard United Methodist Church Administrative Board; past chairman of Tyler Economic Development Council; past chairman of Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce; past chairman of Better Business Bureau of Central East Texas; past president of East Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of CPAs; and past board member of Texas Society of CPAs.

She was one of the first benefactors of the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center at TJC.

"Tyler Junior College is a critical component in our community," Bass said. "Our world-class community college provides a qualified workforce that meets the needs of area employers. TJC is the best investment we can make in our community to insure a better quality of life for our neighbors. With the medical industry being the No. 1 job-provider in Tyler, my husband and I were excited to join many very generous donors in support of the Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center.

"As the former mayor of Tyler and as a CPA, I see an enormous economic impact since these are high-paying jobs with benefits," she said. "These students, their current or future families, and our entire community will benefit for years to come."

## Gene Branum

### *Special Recognition Award*

This award recognizes an individual for outstanding professional achievements, contributions to society, and/or service to their community thus bringing honor to the college.

Howard E. (Gene) Branum retired in 2015 as a TJC physics professor and department chair of engineering and physical sciences earlier this year, after 45 years of service.

"My time at TJC has been a true delight," Branum said. "The most positive thing is my relationship with the



Gene Branum

students, faculty, administration and staff. Watching students mature academically and socially has always been fun.

"The time I have spent with students outside of class doing service projects, providing physics

demonstrations for youth groups, going on field trips, taking them to physics conferences, advising them, encouraging them to do their very best, and then hearing from them after they have become successful in their field has always given me a sense of pride. Having my son as a student was also enjoyable."

Branum completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at Stephen F. Austin State University and enrolled in graduate studies at the College of William and Mary, Rutgers, Yale, Texas A&M University and Texas A&M-Commerce.

His students tell TJC administrators they will always remember Branum as engaging, kind, soft-spoken and as someone who had a genuine interest in their success.

Branum is a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Texas Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Texas Community College Teachers Association and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

He received the Watson W. Wise Foundation Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence Award in 2004 and was named Outstanding Instructor for the Division of Science and Mathematics in 1991.

He is an elder and trustee at Glenwood Church of Christ, a member of the East Texas Joint Engineers Banquet Committee, served on the advisory and exhibits committees for Discovery Science Place and was a member of the

board of visitors for the Department of Physics at Abilene Christian University.

Branum and his wife, Marion, have a son, Gene D. Branum, M.D., and two daughters, Lucy and Evelyn.

## Eleanor Cameron

### *Black and Gold Award*

This award recognizes outstanding devotion to Tyler Junior College by an individual who is not a former student but volunteers time and effort to promote the mission and goals of the college.

Eleanor Cameron's love of art began when she was a college freshman, and though she served in various capacities in finance and social work as the wife of a busy physician, she continued to give of her time and resources to art and art education.

The wife of Harold Cameron, M.D., Mrs. Cameron also developed a deep respect and interest in the nursing profession.

"The nursing profession was a major



Eleanor Cameron

part of Harold's life," she said recently. "When he first came to Tyler, it was very demanding. The role of the nurse in his work was very important."

When she learned of the planned Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences

Center on TJC's main campus, she was quick to lend generous support.

"The center will be nationally known," she said. "It will draw students from all over because it is the best facility they can go to. You have to realize how much this is going to mean to the doctors in Tyler."

Mrs. Cameron graduated from Troup High School, studied at Stephens College then attended Southern Methodist University, where a friend introduced





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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### **TJC Alumni Association Annual Retreat**

Saturday, Aug. 15  
Magnuson Hotel and Conference Center,  
Tyler  
For information, contact Nicole Durham at  
ndur@tjc.edu.

### **"Anne of a Thousand Days"**

Theatre TJC  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 7-10  
2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11  
Jean Browne Theatre

### **Band-a-Palooza**

TJC Jazz Ensembles  
7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday,  
Oct. 22 and 23  
Wise Auditorium

### **TJC Choral Groups in Concert Concert Choir and Chamber Singers**

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27  
Wise Auditorium

### **TJC Bands in Concert**

Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and  
Percussion Ensemble  
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12  
Wise Auditorium

### **"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"**

Theatre TJC  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday,  
Nov. 18-21  
2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22  
Jean Browne Theatre

### **East Texas Symphony Orchestra Jazz Spectacular**

TJC Jazz Ensembles  
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21  
Liberty Hall, Downtown Tyler

### **Pops Concert**

Harmony & Understanding with  
TJC Jazz Ensemble  
7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday,  
Nov. 30 and Dec. 1  
Wise Auditorium

### **Christmas Downtown at Marvin UMC**

TJC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers  
Noon Wednesday, Dec. 2  
Marvin United Methodist Church,  
Downtown Tyler

### **"The Nutcracker" Ballet**

TJC Academy of Dance  
7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5  
2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6  
Wise Auditorium

*For more events, go to [tjc.edu/PerformingArts](http://tjc.edu/PerformingArts).*